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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable LINCOLN CHAFEE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of love and laughter, what can we give You for all of Your benefits? You send the sunshine and rain and bring the bountiful harvest. You dispatch angels to protect us from dangers that we do not even see. You save us from ourselves and fill the void of our spirits with Your abiding presence. You keep us from wariness and despair. Great and marvelous are Your works; just and true are Your ways.

Thank You for the peace You give each of us, even in the midst of life's storms. Supply all the needs of our Senators out of the abundance of Your celestial riches. Transform our gratitude into service to those who know daily the pain of privation and hopelessness. Help us to express our faith in deeds of love. We pray in Your great name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LINCOLN CHAFEE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 4, 2004.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of Rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable LINCOLN CHAFEE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CHAFEE thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

SCHEDULE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will resume consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill. It is the leader's hope that we would be able to temporarily set aside the pending amendment so that other Senators can offer and debate their amendments. Senators are encouraged to come to the floor to speak on the merits of the bill. There will be no rollcall votes today.

The next rollcall vote will be in relation to the Kennedy bunker-buster amendment and that vote will occur Tuesday of next week prior to the policy luncheons.

I remind all Senators that under an agreement reached yesterday, all first-degree amendments to the Defense bill must be filed at the desk no later than 5 p.m. on Monday. It is the leader's intention to complete action on this bill next week. Senators should expect a busy week next week as we move toward completion of the Defense authorization bill.

I see Senator DASCHLE is in the Chamber and yield any time that he would consume.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

COMPLETING DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Senator from Alabama and share his and the leader's view that given the agreements we have reached with regard to consideration of amendments on the DOD authorization bill, that we can work in a way that will accommodate that goal of completing our work on the bill before the end of next week.

FAREWELL TO SENATE PAGES

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I would like to again say farewell this morning to a wonderful group of young men and women who have served as Senate pages over the last 5 months and thank them for their contributions to the day-to-day operations of the Senate. This particular group of pages has served with distinction, and they have done a marvelous job of balancing their responsibilities to their studies and to this body. Today is their final day as Senate pages.

I want to say thank you to Andrew Blais of Rhode Island; Katherine Buck of New Hampshire; Sam Cannon of Utah; Erin Chase of South Dakota; Eric Coykendall of Arizona; Julie Cyr of Vermont; Joe Galli of Maine; Watson Hemrick of Tennessee; Jennifer Hirsch of Arkansas; Garrett Jackson of Mississippi; Kara Johnson of Illinois; Ben Kappelman of Montana; Andrew Knox of Vermont; Adam Lathan of Alabama; Betsy Lefholz of South Dakota; Brittney Moraski of Michigan; Alex Ogden of North Carolina; Jaclyn Pfahler of Montana; Aaron Porter of Tennessee; Ingrid Price of Utah; Laura Pritchard of Virginia; Laura Refsland

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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